

a READ is...

reading to read a person is to highlight and exaggerate all of the flaws of a person, from their ridiculous clothes, to their flawed makeup and anything else the reader can come up with. It is a battle of wit, in which the winner is one who gets the crowd to laugh the most.

Humor Pain body process and the B l a c k B a l l

Beginning in the late nineteenth century, members of the underground LGBTQ+ community in large cities began to organize masquerade balls known as "drags" in defiance of laws which banned individuals from wearing clothes associated with the opposite gender.

Shade: shade is an art form that developed from Reading. Rather than the aim to insult, someone works with the medium of backhanded compliments. An example is to suggest that someone's beautiful dress makes people almost forget that she has a five o'clock shadow.

we us ours
our big feelings
our House shit

007: a person who is not a member of a House

Walking: walking to acquire the admiration of ball contestants

Mopping: shoplifting, usually clothes to walk in at a ball

House: a group of individuals that compete in balls under the same name. Often, they are your chosen family.

Dip: iconic drop done by vogue dancers, also known as a death drop or shawam in pop culture

Chop: when the person competing is disqualified by one of the judges

Legendary, or "Legend": a title added before an individual's name meaning years of hard work

Iconic, or "Icon": similar to "Legend", this is the highest achievement in ballroom. It means countless trophies have been won and memorable moments have been made by this individual

A key element of balls is also the music, which is typically characterized by distinct, up tempo beats that are overlaid with the "raps" of commentators or emcees. Lyrics are just as stylized as the beats and often praise queerness and femininity through typically vulgar language and usage of words like "cunt" and "pussy". Historically, the music featured at balls has been whatever is popular within the Black LGBT community at the time, ranging from disco, to club music, to house, and now even rap and R&B. House music, the primary sound of the balls, is always upwards of 120 beats per minute and has African roots, which is reflected in the rhythm.

cult mixtape*

You sound dumb as shit.

Ima read you bitch.

You excitin my shit. I rage bitch. Real shade bitch.

Glitch witch. Ain't caught up in nat straight shit

Wash it out bitch.
Blue em back sis.

Wash

Face: One of the most critiqued ballroom categories because it is not a category you can learn. You have to be born with a face or you have to go under the knife to achieve the 5 elements. Competitors compete by displaying their beauty to the judges who vote based on these elements: Teeth, Skins, Eyes, Nose, and Bone Structure. Fem Queen face is one of the most highly competitive and lucrative ballroom categories to date.

Live: Immense joy. (ie. "Did you see the new Beyonce video? I'm living for it".)

Ovah: A variation of "over" or "over the top". Usually used to describe excellence.

Pay It: Ignore and move on. Often used when dealing with something negative or unfavorable. (ie. "Who cares what she said about your moves. You did amazing. Pay it!".)

Realness: In ballroom culture, realness is the ability to pass as a certain gender or sexuality in everyday society.

Serve/Serving: Bringing 110% attitude and confidence to your performance. If you're "serving" an outfit, you're strutting your stuff and living your best life.

Shade: An underhanded jab that's slightly insulting and usually an inside joke. Shade can also be an action, such as an eye-roll or even a smile.

Despite their growing popularity, drag balls were deemed illegal and immoral by mainstream society. A moral reform organization known as the Committee of Fourteen periodically investigated the balls. In 1916, the committee released a report detailing the scandalous behavior they witnessed. The report described a scene filled with "phenomenal" "male perverts" in expensive frocks and wigs, looking like women. The committee later released 130 reports describing its visits, demanding that such perversion must cease.

The balls were crucial in the creation and maintenance of LGBTQ culture. Historian George Chauncey has pointed out that Harlem "enhanced the solidarity of the gay world and symbolized the continuing centrality of gender inversion to gay culture." Powering through harassment and arrests, Harlem became a "homosexual mecca." Police, politicians, and mainstream society found themselves simply unable to suspend the famous ball scene.

Ball competition categories are designed to simultaneously epitomize and satirize various genders and social classes, while also offering an escape from reality. The culture extends beyond the extravagant events as many participants in ball culture also belong to groups known as "houses," a longstanding tradition in LGBT communities, and racial minorities, where chosen families of friends live in households together, forming relationships and communities to replace families of origin from which they may be estranged.

Drag ball culture both resists and conforms to gender and sexuality norms. The realness category shows how the participants work to perform certain roles, for example a straight business executive, so as to stay safe on the streets. They can be "real" with their queer identities within their community. However, they also practice "passing" as straight individuals during their performances. The realness category provides a space for queer individuals to practice conforming to traditional gender norms.

Overall, "the spectrum of identities performed on the floor, and the craft and spectacle of the performances themselves, move to center stage the routine labor of self-presentation" (Herzog and Rollins 2012:10). Ball participants use their performances to communicate specific information about themselves to others. The balls create a welcoming, non-critical space for the queer community to construct their sense of self...

a read.
a rage.
a wash.

pt 1 Staying Power (Norf Phil)
pt 2 Philadanco (West Phil)

(Detroit House)
DEEP SHADOWS
https://youtu.be/Xfoby_K4wfc

sostenuto (ability to sustain a tone), and tonal spectrum

chorus effect
invoking

Stay walking Realness

Killin it.

Walking softly Lux
House of Lux
House of Black Infinity

tonal

& very big feelings

Analog synth play
Pulling cutoff filters
Changing waveforms on oscillators
Making chords to beats
Lo fi
4 to the floor
Vintage
Old skool
tonal loops
like 90s r&b
tape emulator plugins
Pulse it like a side chain
Delay (kick drum made heartbeats)
Kicks layered on kicks
Making a mono sound spread itself out
Acoustic runnings
Manipulating what I hear and making it our own

for a moment now....

The primary aesthetic of this read is to tear the state down...
AND

to build up what it requires to belong. House/ home. To be all about the House is to speak about finding home in a chosen family. To find a space of belonging....

How sad do you have to be to bring the state in your family affairs? No home training.

No court order worship here. Court order. I don't give a damn about no court order.

First off kill yaself, bitch

Kill yaself

Kill yaself

Kill ya self bitch

Can't fuck wi me rn

Don't fuck wi me rn

Can't fuck wi me

Don't fuck wi me rn

Nigga

i love us nigga

we us ours dem

Our feelings.

I love us.

How?

How

This bitch.

White bitch.

This white bitch.

Look at.

Look at.

Look at.

bitch. I'm in my feelings

how dare you * a motha

How

How

a motha

A motha

a mother

A umi

A motha

umi

I'm

Bitch cp time

How dare you ? She

A motha

werk bitch

Enuff bitch

werk werk werk werk

Bitch. Sleep. Werk. Bleed.

No

No thank you. No policies. No snitches.

This bitch.

Been LIT

I'm lazy

Fuck you

Pay me

Ain't shit but money

I'm lazy

Fuck you
We werk
You?
Lurkin ass nigga jerk ass nigga
She we nurturing
She we servin she she
Sh we
servin ya pop, nigga. she made you. Bleed, wayment
She we King, bitch wayment
fuck wit us phantom fantasies
Fuck around. another tragedy.
we she Moor
Love us
we She transgress
She lives, renegade. Fuck wit us .
Love we her
Love we her
Love
Love, she servin we beautiful
Love her we
She is ours. all eyez us ovah
Ye ye ni whylin
whylin. Ni yoto bitch
Ni yoto
We we ni dreamers. 3 seats ovah
Sit Akh. we Learn this
6 seats. 7. we Ovah
Got us chopped dis aint Nuffin new nigga
Nzuri, Poa 8 seats
Blood mission: snitches galactic swarm eat happy like potatoes and grits gits ate YUM power pleasure
Eat a pussy
drag
Ass
court order havin devil donning war ass nigga
Keep talkin.
court order havin nigga whore ass ngga You sound dumb as shit.
Keep talkin.
Ima read you bitch.

You excitin my shit. wel rage bitch. Real shade bitch. On god _

Glitch tantric braiding dat queer to basic straight shit

Wash it out.
Blue em back sis.

Wash

Ima read you bitch.
I eat you. You #delicious
I suck the seasoning
And wash.

Have 3 seats ... pay it!

And wash.

This rage trouble trouble

#it was written

LeRn this

Look how decent

Look

At

A damn

I don't *

What are you lookin at ? What !? Give

38 HOTTTT go head

We are spiritual. Sssss

Fuck you

fuck OFF me

jump on and tear it up. Dead in there. Wait

kill yaself

been LIT

Been LIT

BEEN known

BEEN wanted

BEEN fearless

been hunted

been reckless

been kilt

bitches stunted n y'all don't want it. naw bul you don't want it nun hummm hummmm

The Read, the rage and the wash. Walk these miles

Barefoot blood

Blue Blak bluing

Red Black

Yella nigga

Regular Black

errday Prismatic Stax

How swayed?

ALL Black moor Black animal shit. Whylin prismatic as you should.

A motha

A mamí

A papí

A public

A bitch

A bag

A bat

Bul a rat.

bul.

Look at

for rainbows, bitch. My feelings

Big big feelings

Look at

Look,

the mothering.

Dream a different dream, bitch. Come on home bih... Look

Fuck a capital state

Free em

Rainbows.

Tell em
Fuck a court order.
Free em
Fuck dat. Rude bitch. Shadow smellin sugar ditch. Stud Bul akh ancient ass nigga bull dagger servin old black
bidness
We don't call ourselves pigs.
we don't call no pigs
don't call no pigs
We mask it.
We play with it.
We walk it.
We fear it.
We wear it. We strip it. Bleed it. Stew it.
Devour it. Then suck the fingertips
Feel me?
Miss me
Miss me.
Miss me wit the dumb shit.
Say thank you for the mothering *
sun
Say thank you
the mothering hun *
Look at
Look at
Wash it
Walk it
Weather it, bitch
Through it, bitch
Census it
Kill yaself and mother it
midwife it
Thru it bluing
fathered it .swole
Brothered it
Faced it
Fucking it
Killed it
Left it
Miss me
off us
Feel me?
did a Black Ball shatter a crystal ball
Blue Ball nigga,
Tryin nigga. Tryin it
007 nigga
Miss me
weekend warrior, I'm here to destroy you
I'm a Black Ball
I'm
Ima
Black Ball
The doors of the church are open, save your soul. Open floor 4 there catch the wave it's moor dere
Miss me
Devils lurkin

Real real jerk on sum subsistence subsist shit sub bitch
Miss me
Kill yaself
Kill dat irkin
Bitch you mad? Trash.
Neanderthal mirror bitch I am on call
Roll call
Star heart woodsy nigga
Captured and opened
the pleasure principle met love on a dark & lovely road
Trashed
We smashed. Yams had. Now we a professional ? Call me mother father.. With lux. In lux we trust we fuck woes.
Pregnant. Absent. Milky. Turn in scary hoes Call me mother father
to the dragons bitch
Drag
Drag
Drag nigga
Devils lurkin
Tables turnt
sum Christs return
Dey bout learnt
Niggaz whylin
Throwed bitch.

___ don't know me. I'm throwed bitch

like Sunday service devotionals
The niggaz is comin
Niggas *been* wildin now we got a informant ? Ugh
Wait
Miss me
Mines we us ours
Ugh. Pause —
Niggas lost it ? They left home
They left home
Sorry
fuck a court order. We don't give a damn
Fuck a fear
Dis Juice old as your mother's mother's mother's mother's mother's mother's mother's mother.
Birthed it. Fed it. Bled it. Repeat
Often
Where dem maad niggas went ?
Niggas lost it ? They left home
fuck a court order
fuck a
fuck a state
fuck a White bitch
fuck a
fuck a dubious bitch
fuck a
fuck a tryin nigga. Tryin it
Lyin 007 nigga. ___ don't know me
Ima
Ima Black Ball

The point of walking

Walking Is simply the act of competing in a certain category at the ball.

Public

going by the subway

to terms

to runnings

to drag

to living

to slay

to swarm

to face

to wait

to werk

masked & powdered from the neck up. READY

AM says just be ready

to terms

to runnings

to drag

to living

to slay

to swarm

to face

to wait

to werk

Miss me

Being the thing. Thinking. Here Being. Here dirty water synth

Miss me

watery Here. Hugged by two arms of rivers

A Blues

Miss me

Miss me

Triptych

A read.

A deep shadow.

A blue wash.

We Loop.

We Light Bleeds Blinking collage. Romare Bearden musings. How Eyes, posture, humble love and power gestures
spotty into color and patterns and ancient known.

Hair washing under a distorted gaze. Palimpsest.